CHURCH'S PANEL TO ASK C.I.A. CURB

Congress Would Get Notice on Key Covert Operators

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 14—The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence will ask for legislation that would require the intelligence agencies to notify Congress before they begin any "significant" covert operations, Senator Frank Church, the committee chairman, said today.

In a breakfast meeting with reporters, the Idaho Democrat gave his first public outline of the oversight legislation that his committee plans to formally propose next week. The committee is expected to file on Tuesday a bill calling for a nine-member Senate oversight committee.

Senators Church and John G. Tower, the Texas Republican who is vice chairman, are expected to testify on the legislation in midweek before the Senate Government Operations Committee.

Mr. Church said the committee was not ruling out the concept that Congress might want to create a joint committee of both Senate and House members to watch the intelligence agencies, but would leave such proposal to the House of Representatives.

Ford Administration officials have said that they are very dubious about any requirement that the President give Con-

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gress prior notice of covert operations. They have said that this would limit the President's constitutional right to conduct foreign policy, in that it implies Congress has some veto power.

Issue of Leaks

They have said that reports on Central Intelligence Agency operations in Angola and Italy came from Congress and that when members of Congress have prior information on top-secret projects an individual senator or representative can "veto" the operation by making it public.

Senator Church told newsmen today that he deplored the leaks on Angola and Italy, but said that he did not believe members of a permanent oversight committee would act in an irresponsible manner. He denied, as he has in the past, that there had been major leaks from his intelligence committee.

He said the bill, however, would permit the oversight committee to seek to make public abuses that it discovered by getting the concurrence of the Senate.

The Senator said that this country and Congress must evolve "a rational system for dealing with secrets."

He said that the committee's proposal would call for the members of the permanent oversight committee to serve only one six-year term. The terms would be staggered so that the committee would always have both experienced and new members. He said the members would be selected by the Senate leadership in traditional fashion.

Periodic Rotation

Mr. Church told the newsmen that the bill would also recommend that the staff of the committee be rotated periodically so that no "establishment" of intelligence agencies and Congress would develop.

In another matter, Mr. Church pledged that his committee would make public in its final report the names of any news organizations that supply news to this country, at which the C.I.A. had paid reporters or infiltrated agents. According to senior intelligence officials, the C.I.A. had some 40 men on its payroll around the world who posed as journalists. In five cases, these sources said, they worked for major news-gathering organizations.

The C.I.A. has refused to make public the names of individuals who might have posed as newsmen while feeding the agency information. It has refused to supply the information to the House intelligence community, according to committee sources.

Senator Church said he would not permit the publication of the individuals' names but would make public the names of news organizations if they had circulated news reports by infiltrated C.I.A. agents in this country and thus had misled Americans.

Mr. Church defended the work of his committee as having been as complete an investigation as was possible.

"Now it's perfectly true we haven't opened every door and examined every closet," he said. "It's not possible to do that in one year's time. But that wasn't our charge. Our charge was to make as adequate an investigation as possible, and nobody has suggested that the revelations that we've made are insufficient grounds to make legislative recommendations."